

Brooklyn, Sat. June 13. 1847.

My dear Sir,

I have closed, with this afternoon, my labours in Brooklyn, having spoken a few plain words of counsel to the people, & of exhortation to "stand fast in one spirit, with one mind, striving together for the faith of the Gospel". Though a somewhat laborious service, having almost always had three services each Sunday, I have yet enjoyed my term here very much, having experienced the greatest kindness & received a most unexpected degree of confidence from the people, ~~much~~ one of all.

And now, what they are to do in future, they do not know, ~~but to give up~~ is a thing which does not enter into their calculations. They were quite disappointed about Ferris, and now hardly know whither to turn. A son of Gen. Davis of Worcester, who is keeping school in W. & also studying for the ministry, has twice preached here for them, when I have not been able to come; he has offered to come occasionally & preach for them, they paying his expenses. On these terms, they will occasionally call upon him, but will not ^{feel} free to do so often. His Mother, you may remember, was Dr. Bancroft's eldest daughter. He is a very pleasant young man, & succeeds very well as a preacher (in the estimation of many) but is averse to any reform movement, and this is not the kind of preaching needed here.

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Now I wish you would make your arrangements so as to pass a Sunday here, while you are on in July. It would be a great help to the Society; and you could say some words of encouragement which would be very valuable to them. - As you did not come here last summer, I have thought you would be more unwilling to come eastward now without visiting them. - As I make the calculation your Sermon is to be delivered at Cambridge Sunday July 11th; am I right? Then, why could you not be here July 18th? I know you would be glad to see this people & help them - and you need no urging from me. So, having named the matter, I submit ^{it} to your consideration.

I rec^d. last Mond. evng. at Leic^r, your kind & prompt reply to my letter from Concord, N.H. I thank you for your hearty response to, & approval of, my appointment as Agent of Mass. A.S. Socy.; and for your suggestions. I believe there are some good & unselfish Abolitionists in the Liberty party, and I heartily wish their efforts might in some way be conjoined with ours; but I trust things will all work for the best. 'Liberty party' with you, I suppose is a different thing from what it is in N. England, including pretty much all of the Antislavery of the region.

We have sent our boy Edward (9 yrs. old last January) to pass the summer with your sister Abby in Concord; or rather my wife accompanied him thither last Thursday. We hope it will prove a good thing for him, and have no doubt he will be under kind & salutary influences.

I was pleased with your full & generous tribute to Mr. Alcott's character. Probably his course has, peculiarly, cost you more than any one else out of his own family; and yet this has not blinded you to his merits. I learn that he is doing a great deal of hard & heavy work this spring, - on his land, laying wall, building arbors for Mr. Emerson, &c. &c. It seems there is now a talk of his going to Europe in the fall with Mr. E. My wife says that Abby wants that you & I should ~~come~~ ^{come} to Concord together while you are here. This would be very pleasant to me.

When I was at Hopedale, some 6^{or 7} weeks since, I visited your brother Charles, who had just got into his little wren-box of a house. 'Tis very pretty, but very snug. I found it wanted every appurtenance of a house - had no woodshed even, no fence, no steps to door, & so on. I thought I would try (seeing that I had been on the spot, seen for myself, & inquired of Mr. Ballou as to ~~the state of~~ his means to go on & finish his place) to raise a small sum to enable him to ~~build~~ build at least a wood-shed, & more if I could. From 3 sources, to which I have applied, I have obtained \$10. each; and shall certainly add to this \$5. more, and probably \$10; making in all, ^{\$35. or} \$40. This sum I shall send, as agreed with Mr. Ballou, to Mr. B., for the purpose of the wood-shed, &c. for y^r. bro. Charles; I hope to send it this week. ^{or in} ~~From~~ one quarter, to which I applied, ~~Mr. W.~~ my request was denied. Cousin L. G. Wigglesworth, my father, and one person who charged me not to mention his name, were those who gave each \$10. for the purpose. As Charles looks to you annually,

I understand, for some assistance, it seemed to me proper that you should know of this matter; indeed it was suggested to me that I had better do this.

I expect to go to Leicester tomorrow morning, and on Tuesday morning to Boston to commence my Agency. My family will remain in Leicester, (save Edw^d. at Concord) until the Autumn, when I must contrive some way of getting them to the city or its neighbourhood.

I have not your last with me here; so perhaps ~~not~~ not noticed particularly its various parts as I should do. I hope John Edw^d. likes his place in Syracuse, & that you are all well. I look forward with much pleasure to seeing you in Boston. My wife has repeatedly expressed the wish that you would ~~stop~~ stay a while in Leicester; but with your short allowance of time I fear this would be impracticable. I hope you will come to Brooklyn. Theo: Scarborough is still very feeble & helpless. Catherine S. is at home now. Mrs. Nathl. Martin is in very feeble health; - Mrs. Fissett, far from well, & does not get out at all. Others are, for the most part, well; so far as I think. The eldest son of the very old Mrs. Woodward (who lives near Edwin Scarborough's) died a few weeks since. The eldest son of the widow Litchfield (an old Baptist lady, who says you used to visit her sometimes) also died a fortnight since, very suddenly, having fallen from his wagon in a fit, as is supposed. - I believe you know that John Gray & family have removed to Worcester; they like the change much. - The Society here owes a great deal to Dr. Whitcomb; without him, I do not believe it would last 2 months. But there are good materials here for a good Society; and they ought to hold on, keep together, & be sustained.

Boston, Tuesday June 15. I intended to mail this at Leicester yesterday, but forgot it till too late. So I brought it hither this morning. - Mr. Wallcut says he received your letter & attended to it. With much love Yours Saml. May Jr.
N.B. You are doubtless informed of Geo. W. Holland's death.

Ms. A. 6. 1. 27